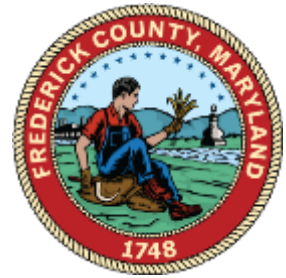




Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes for

9/21/16



FCSC Attendees: Tom Anderson, Jennifer Bird, Annie Jones, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Joe Richardson, Mike Swanson, Tim Jones, John Ferri, Liz Peterson, Rachel Armistead, Kevin Sellner

OSER: Shannon Moore

Public: Rich Maranto, Alysia Feuer, Councilmember Jerry Donald, Mike Campbell, Beth Moreshead

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. The Chair (Annie Jones) welcomed all FCSC members and guests with introductions by all.

II. Vice Chair Items

A. Approval of August minutes.

1. Approval of August Minutes with minor edits, moved by Tom, and seconded by Joe. Minutes approved with some abstentions.

B. Action Items

1. Indicators
 - Shannon – Sustainability Commission has worked on indicators for some time.
 - What are metrics and why do they matter?
 - Metrics: Indicators, scenarios, trends, targets, baselines, drivers.
 - Indicators must support community vision, as noted in the community survey.
 - What makes a good indicator for Frederick County?
 - Outcome is meaningful, quantifiable and measureable..etc.
 - Housing Indicators
 - Current Housing indicators
 - Number of homeless, Average house values, Housing permits.
 - Looking at new indicators

- House price to income ratio, number of people using homeless shelters, distribution of affordable housing, shared new housing units in incorporated parts of the county, single family residences in priority funding areas.
- Water quality indicators
 - Macroinvertebrate data in streams is one source.
 - Kevin contacted MDE and MDNR for additional indicators.
- 2. Committees and Green Team Liaisons
 - Missing liaisons for two green teams, sign up sheet to circulate. Each member should try to reach out to their Green Team twice a year and see how we can help each other.

III. Discussion on Proposed Solar Farm Regulations

- County staff memo has been circulated for review. Ron is providing notes for discussion. Discussion items during the meeting included:
 - Basic assumptions – preserve ag land, provide more renewable energy, certain benefits to farmers.
 - Use Solar panel terminology in the memo instead of solar collector.
 - Discussed wording of county memo (delete none of the power generated is exported off site, delete “only enough” under Option 1).
 - Why “Non-governmental projects”? This regulation will not apply to municipality or federal projects.
 - Potential for landscaping beneath the solar panels; grazing, shade tolerant crops, pollinator habitat.
 - Several items in memo are restrictive for this use. Are other uses as restrictive? Industrial land available is minimal within the county (2.6%) 57% is ag zoned.
 - The County suggested a max of 75 acres due to aesthetic concerns, min of 10 acres requested from solar companies for efficiency.
 - Discussion held regarding setting limits by acre or by percentage of the property.
 - Farmers are looking for other uses for their land to be more profitable. Solar gives them an opportunity for their farm to be profitable. The higher % they can use for solar, the more land that is profitable.
 - Putting farmland into solar use could preserve it longer term because it’s not being paved into a development use.

- Raising the 20 foot limit to 30 feet would allow room for grazing and other uses below panels.
- Who is responsible if the property is abandoned by the solar company?
- Viewshed analysis – do other activities require an analysis? Yes, other developments must provide a model to show they are not impacting a viewshed. However, without a definition, aesthetics are subjective to each person's opinion over an impact.
- Listen to farm bureau and ag business council. Encourage solar companies to use other land that is more acceptable. Solar panels are an industrial use, not appropriate for farms.
- Kevin made a motion that Ron draft a letter and circulate to the Commission for comment. The motion was seconded by Joe. The motion was passed.
- Jerry Donald encouraged members to testify when the hearing is held.

IV. Fall Sustainability Commission Public Meeting

- Ideas and Discussion
 - October 28, Friday afternoon from 2-6pm at Brookhill United Methodist Church.
 - Looking for speakers for the organization portion of the meeting.
 - Joe suggested John Daniels speak on waste management, Joe to invite.
 - Tom suggested a speaker on PACE, loan program for businesses who want to invest in energy technologies.
 - Energy efficiency topic – building envelopes, HVAC systems – Tim Jones to consider speaking.
 - Electric vehicles
 - Recycling – Anne Marie Creamer
 - Green leader teams – Suzanne Cliber to present? Planned or Proposed County Initiatives as a topic? Adopt a Road program speaker?
 - Flyer – modify contact for registrations.
 - Target audience – churches, small businesses, community organizations.
 - Advertisement – Flyer, Sustainability newsletter and mailing list, Facebook, lists available for schools and houses of worship to send flyers.

V. OSER Update

- PACE – allows commercial and non profits to obtain loans for energy efficiency projects. Community input proposed a wording change to the legislation. County Council will

hopefully approve soon. Third party servicing entity to be go between for borrowers and lenders.

- New initiative for a Volunteer citizen corps – community projects that benefit water quality and overall sustainability.

VI. Commission Members Items of Interest

- Annie – attended Paw Paw festival, lots of fun. Attending presentation for development of the downtown post office.
- Rachel – Attending expo for DIY/environmental initiatives in PA, booths ranging from solar to ag products to food.
- Joe – interested in applying for PACE program for new building development on his property. Looking for solar, geothermal, etc..
- Kevin – Hood is involved with Spring How to do Green conference. County Sustainability Office is helping to plan. Linganore Community partially draining Lake Anita Louise to mitigate algal movement into Lake Linganore.
- John – reached out New Market green committee to be liaison.
- Tom – wrote green notes on Solaxe for Frederick News Post.
- Tim – Designing new spray foam applicator. More efficient, can do more with less.
- Jenn/Mike – ASCE meeting with Ben Grumbles.
- Liz – Conference planning committee for MAEOE. Conference at Goucher College. Neighborhood Sun – focus on community solar.
- Mike – Tiny houses – possible presentation in Oct or Dec.
- Ron – Saturday, event in Poolesville – 80 electric vehicles present. Two electric chargers in Poolesville. Solar tour – October 1 and 2 – metro area.

VII. Public Comments

- Rich – Hood having greener, healthier community presentation on the 14th.

Action Items:

8-18-16. Choose water quality/watershed indicators to help develop sustainability goals.

7-20-16. Councilman Donald asked FCSC to provide recommendations on Solar Farms by Sept/Oct.

7-20-16. FCSC will ask the County Executive about what she sees as our role in the Solid Waste initiative.

7-20-16. Three subworkgroups are needed and need volunteers: EPP, the Fall Event, and Solid Waste.

5-1-16. Sustainability Event in the fall. This would be a free meeting open to the public. It needs to be well planned three months in advance for October. Rachel will be on the work group with Tom. A theme, date, and location have been chosen. Planning efforts continue.

10-10-15. FCSC committees: Invite community volunteers to join.

10-8-15. County Green Teams: Ron has assembled a comprehensive list that includes municipalities with teams and contact information shown.

Adjournment: Following a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.